Hike in disability pension of jawans

2079. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plan to increase the disability pension of the Jawans; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The rates of disability pension for Armed Forces personnel were increased *w.e.f.* 1.1.1996 on the basis of the recommendations of the Fifth Central Pay Commission.

Complaints of bribery in purchase of mirage

2080. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:
SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether complaints have been received of alleged efforts to bribe for procuring orders or purchase of 32 Mirage aircrafts;

(b) if so, the details of complaints made; and

(c) the action taken to expedite Mirage deal?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There is no proposal to purchase 32 Mirage aircraft.

Upgradation of T-72 tanks

2081. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to upgrade the entire fleet of T-72 tank of Army;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the cost and the timeframe;

(c) whether as our State owned Heavy Vehicles-Factory (HVF) is not qualified for undertaking the upgrading, Government is going to entrust this job to a Russian Company; and

(d) if so, the details and justification thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir. Government proposes to upgrade entire fleet of T-72 tanks held by field formations of the Army.

(b) Major schemes undertaken/being considered for upgradation of T-72 tanks include installation of Auto Land Navigation System, new Engines for upgrading mobility, upgradation of protection, Image Intensifier Night Sights, Thermal Imager Fire Control System/Thermal Imager Stand Alone System for upgrading of fire power. These schemes are likely to be completed upto the year 2008-09.

(c) HVF has already undertaken upgradation of T-72 tanks. The DRDO designed upgrade, Combat Improved Ajeya (CIA) incorporates 6 (six) additional features of which 3 (three) have already been introduced and HVF has started supplying T-72 upgrades with these additional features.

(d) Does not arise.

VIPs security

2082. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government have asked States to share the burden of providing security to VIPs as the Home Ministry is facing a severe manpower shortage due to the deployment of security personnel for internal security duties;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of VIPs whom the Union Home Ministry is providing various categories of security at present;

(d) whether the Union Government have also decided to provide additional funds to States on this account; and

(e) if so, the response of State to the above proposal of the Union Government?